

Message Text

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DEPT ALSO PASS TO DR. EHRLICH, DHEW/OIH

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: WHO
SUBJC WHO PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET, 1978-1979

REF: A. STATE 300774, B. GENEVA 9851, C. STATE 298228, D. GENEVA 9865

1. SUMMARY: MISSION APPRECIATES GUIDANCE RECEIVED IN REFTEL A. REF B AND THIS CABLE ARE FOR DEPT'S FURTHER CONSIDERATION PRIOR TO THE GENEVA GROUP (WHO) MEETING ON DEC 14 AND TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED GG-FURTH MEETING ON DEC 16, AS WELL AS FOR PLANNING PURPOSES FOR THE U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION TO THE WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSION IN JAN 1977 (STATE 298759). MISSION HAS BEEN TAKING NEW INITIATIVES REGARDING WHO PROGRAM AND BUDGET MATTERS (AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GAO IN OCT) IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE DEPT NOT ONLY WITH EARLY WARNING INFORMATION BUT WITH SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN BY THE DEPT. ACCORDINGLY, MISSION OFFICER MET WITH CANADIAN MISSION COLLEAGUES THIS WEEK (INCLUDING DR BRUCE CASSELMAN) FOR DISCUSSIONS ON WHO'S PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 1978-79 AND, AFTERWARDS, WITH WHO BUDGET DIRECTOR FURTH. NO DRAMATIC RESULTS WERE ACHIEVED, AS EVIDENCED BY THE SUMMARY APPEARING BELOW, BUT IT IS A MODEST BEGINNING. FURTH CONFIDED MAHLER HAD JUST TOLD HIM THE SOVIET EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER, DR. VENEDICTOV, WOULD NOT BE ATTENDING THE WHO EB SESSION JAN 12-22, 1977 (SEE PARA 10 BELOW). END SUMMARY.

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2. BEFORE SUMMARIZING THE MEETING, MISSION WOULD LIKE TO MAKE

TWO OBSERVATIONS: 1) IN MEETING WITH THE CANADIAN MISSION REPRESENTATIVES, MISSION LEARNED DR BRUCE CASSELMAN AND UK REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE MEETING IN WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK (INFORMALLY AS A U.S. INITIATIVE) TO DISCUSS WHO'S 1978-79 PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING THE RESULTS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS.

2. MISSION ACCEPTS AND APPRECIATES THE COUNSEL RECEIVED IN REFTEL C. MISSION WOULD LIKE ONLY TO STATE ITS PRINCIPAL CONCERN HAD BEEN THAT, IN ADDITION TO THE ROLE OF THE GENEVA GROUP IN CONTROLLING SPA BUDGETS--A ROLE REJUVENATED BY RECENT DEPT INITIATIVES--THE U.S. AND OTHER INTERESTED MEMBER STATES OF THE WHO MUST MAKE EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF APPROPRIATE WHO FORUMS (EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSIONS, PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETINGS, WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION ASSEMBLIES) NOT JUST TO FINALIZE LAST YEAR'S BUDGET BUT TO CONTROL WHO'S BUDGET 3-4 YEARS HENCE (FOR THE 1980-81 BUDGET WE MUST ACT IN 1977) THROUGH MECHANISMS THAT EXIST IN THESE WHO CONSTITUTIONAL FORUMS FOR PROGRAM AND BUDGET CONTROLS (SEE REFTEL D FOR MAHLER PROPOSAL FOR 1980/81).

3. SUMMARY OF MEETINGS WITH CANADIANS AND WHO FURTH. THE WHO PROPOSED 1978-79 PROGRAM BUDGET BOOK STATES THE EVOLUTION FROM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO TECHNICAL COOPERATION PUTS BACK INTO FOCUS WHO'S PRIMARY CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF COORDINATION (PARA 4, PAGE XIII, INTRODUCTION). WHO'S DEFINITION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION WAS A PRIMARY CONCERN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD PROGRAM COMMITTEE IN NOVEMBER. THIS CONCERN RESULTED IN THE SECRETARIAT PRODUCING A SUPPLEMENTARY, SEVERAL-PAGE DEFINITION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION (POUCHED TO DEPT), WHICH WAS SET ASIDE TBY THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE FINALLY SUGGESTED TECHNICAL COOPERATION BE THE SUBJECT OF A FUTURE EB STUDY. UNDOUBTEDLY, TECHNICAL COOPERATON, NOT ONLY AS A CONCEPT BUT WITH PRAGMATIC BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS FOR MEMBER STATES, WILL BE A MAJOR ITEM AT THE JAN 1977 EB SESSION.

4. WHAT SEEMS TO MISSION TO BE AN EXAMPLE OF MUSHY WHO THINKING CAN BE FOUND IN PARAS 3-4 AS OPPOSED TO PARA 8 (PAGES XIII, XV, INTRODUCTION). WHO'S COORDINATING ROLE IN PARAS 3-4 IS DEFINED AS A REGULAR BUDGET CONSIDERATION BUT CROPS UP IN PARA 8 AS EXTRA-BUDGETARY. MISSION BELIEVES DEPT WILL WANT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBTAIN WHO CLARIFICATION OF REGULAR VERSUS VOLUNTARY FUND OR OTHER EXTRA-BUDGETARY SOURCES (FOR EXAMPLE, WHERE DOES THE TROPICAL DISEASES RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAM FIT?), AS THE DEFINING OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION CONTINUES TO EMERGE AT THE EB SESSION IN JANUARY. THE INFORMAL MEETING WITH UK AND CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVES NEXT WEEK COULD BE HELPFUL IN THIS RESPECT.

5. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH FURTH, WE WERE INFORMED: 1) WHO'S BUDGET FOR 1977, THE LOWEST IN 18 YEARS (SEE PAGE XXIV, PARA 45 AND PAGE XXV, PARA 50, INTRODUCTION) WAS AN EXAMPLE OF UNDER-FUNDING; 2) 1978, AN OFF-YEAR THAT WOULD HAVE HAD AN INCREASE OF 9.37 PERCENT OVER 1977 (INSTEAD OF 12.10 PERCENT), HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR TWO NON-RECURRING BUDGET ITEMS (MISSION WILL ADDRESS FURTH ON THIS ITEM AT TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED GG MEETING ON DEC 16 IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 3 OF REF A); 3) 1979 IS A BACK-TO-NORMAL YEAR WITH A 6.48 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1978. HOWEVER, FURTH MAINTAINS, MEMBER STATES SHOULD REALLY AVERAGE THE BUDGET INCREASES FOR THESE THREE YEARS TO ARRIVE AT "THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE", WHICH, HE SAYS, IS IN THE 8 PERCENT RANGE. ANOTHER APPROACH HE SUGGESTED WAS ONE OF COMPARISON WITH OTHER SPAS OVER THE BIENNIALS 1975-76, 1977-78. HE PREDICTED THAT WHO WOULD COME OUT WITH ONE OF THE LOWEST PERCENTAGE INCREASES OF ALL SPAS AT 19.09 PERCENT (COMPARED TO 34 PERCENT IN UNESCO AND HIS PREDICTION OF OVER 20 PERCENT IN ILO).

6. ON THE SIGNIFICANT SUMS OF MONEY PROPOSED FOR THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS' AND DG'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (SEE PARA 4, REFTEL B), FURTH STRESSED THIS MONEY WAS FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION FIELD ACTIVITIES ONLY, NONE OF IT TO GO TO HEADQUARTERS' ACTIVITIES. THE RATIONALE IS TO USE THESE TWO FUNDING SOURCES AS "HOLDING FUNDS." HOWEVER, A GOOD DEAL OF FISCAL TRUST IN WHO SEEMS TO BE CALLED FOR, SINCE MEMBER STATES WILL BE ASKED, IN EFFECT, TO APPROVE SUMS EXPENDED. MAHLER IS ASKING TO SPEND APPROX \$12,000,000 IN 78-79 AND ASK FOR APPROVAL LATER.

7. FURTH ALSO DESCRIBED THE ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INCREASES IN REGIONAL ALLOCATIONS AS "MODEST" IN 1978 AND 1979 OVER 1977 (\$2,420,785 IN 1978, \$2,881,715 IN 1979).

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8. DEPT WILL WANT TO LOOK CAREFULLY AT THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS ON PAGES XVI-XXI IN THE INTRODUCTION TO THE BUDGET DOCUMENT FOR HIDDEN COSTS. FOR EXAMPLE, UNDER THE NEW PROGRAM OF PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS (PARA 2, PAGE XIX), IF WE, IN PRINCIPLE, ACCEPT THIS PROGRAM, THE FORMING OF A "PROGRAM ADVISORY GROUP" IS GOING TO COST AND WE CANNOT COMPLAIN LATER. OTHER PROPOSED NEW ACTIVITIES SUCH AS "EMERGENCY RELIEF OPERATIONS" MUST ALSO BE SCRUTINIZED AT THE BOARD MEETING. UNDER PARAS 38-43, PAGES XXII-XXIII, THE DEPT WILL WANT TO LOOK AT THIS SECTION CAREFULLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NOV EB PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT.

9. UNDER PARAS 46-50, PAGES XXIV-XXV, FURTH MAINTAINED WHO WAS PERHAPS A LITTLE GENEROUS IN COST INCREASE ESTIMATES FOR 1978, BUT REGARDED IT AS ACCEPTABLE, GIVEN WHO'S CONSERVATIVE

POSITION ON THE EXCHANGE RATE (SEE PARA 3 OF REFTEL B).

10. UNDER PARA 51, PAGE XXV, ON THE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE IN THE SOVIET UNION, A \$2,206,000 NON-RECURRING BUDGET ITEM FOR 1978. FURTH INFORMED THE CANADIANS AND US THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE YET TO ACKNOWLEDGE WHO CORRESPONDENCE AND TO FINALIZE THEIR CONTRIBUTION (ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE VICINITY OF \$500,000) TO THE CONFERENCE. MISSION SUGGESTS DEPT MAY WISH TO IMPRESS UPON THE UK AND CANADA AT NEXT WEEK'S INFORMAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON, THE NEED TO ASK THE SOVIETS AT THE EB SESSION WHAT AND WHEN THEY INTEND TO GIVE THE PHC CONFERENCE. AS FOR DR VENEDICTOV NOT APPEARING AT THE JANUARY EB MEETING, FURTH BELIEVES VENEDICTOV HAS OVERSOLD THE PHC CONFERENCE AND IS IN DIFFICULTY WITH HIS GOVERNMENT. MAHLER DOES NOT DISAGREE, FURTH SAID, BUT BELIEVES THERE MAY ALSO BE OTHER FACTORS. THE CANADIANS FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE VENEDICTOV WILL MISS HIS FIRST EB MEETING. CATTO

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